

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. As agreed upon during a telephone interview with Examiner Young on September 28, 2005, Claims 1, 7, 8, and 20 were amended, and Claims 27-31 were canceled. Applicants extend their deepest gratitude and sincerely thank Examiner Young for so carefully considering their amendments, as well as for offering her helpful remarks and suggestions. Applicants respectfully submit that all remaining claims are in allowable form.

35 U.S.C. 103, OBVIOUSNESS

The Examiner states in the Office Action dated August 24, 2005:

Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 6, 9, 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over DePolo, et. al. (USPN 4,652,369) in view of Mendelow (USPN 3,513,981).

Claims 3 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DePolo in view of Mendelow as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Morris, U.S. Patent No. 5,057,214.

Claims 4-5, 17, and 19 rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DePolo in view of Mendelow as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Chandler, et. al., U.S. Patent No. 4,515,692.

Claims 10-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DePolo in view of Mendelow as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Roussel, U.S. Patent No. 5,118,418.

Claims 7-8, 16, and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DePolo in view of Mendelow as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Brett, U.S. Patent No. 3,834,537.

Claims 20-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DePolo in view of Morris, Mendelow, and Chandler.

Claims 27-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris.

Claim 31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris in view of Roussel.

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 20 were amended, and Claims 27-31 were canceled without prejudice in order to place this application in condition for allowance. As agreed upon by Examiner Young during a telephone conference on September 28, 2005, the remaining Claims 1-26 as amended now overcome the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

AFTER-FINAL EXAMINER INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

During a telephone conference on September 28, 2005 with Examiner Young, the Examiner considered Applicants' Proposed Amendments After Final, which were faxed to Examiner on September 23, 2005. As discussed with and agreed upon by Examiner, Claims 1, 7, 8, and 20 were amended to Examiner's satisfaction, and Claims 27-31 were canceled without prejudice in order to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the remaining Claims 1-26 as amended now overcome the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

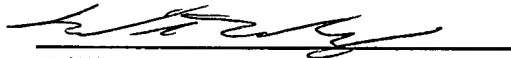
In light of the amendments and the arguments made by Applicants above, Applicants submit that all existing claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw all rejections with regard to the above-referenced claims in reliance on one or more of the grounds submitted by Applicants.

If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Scott L. Harper or William S. Wang at 972-367-2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any payments that may be due or credit any overpayments to CARSTENS & CAHOON, L.L.P. Deposit Account 50-0392.

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Respectfully submitted by:



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